



PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: DERM1100-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rheins and Morhenn Art Unit: 1647  
Application No.: 09/375,609 Examiner: L.Spector  
Filed: August 17, 1999  
Title: METHODS AND KITS FOR OBTAINING AND ANALYZING SKIN  
SAMPLES FOR THE DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS (As Amended)

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed December 18, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

Exhibits A-D are attached following page 26 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on April 23, 2004, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Karen LePari  
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